

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 017223
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY AF/S:FGWISNER:RCB

APPROVED BY P:PCHABIB

AF:WESCHAUFLE

S/S - MR. SHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 017223

NODIS

TOVIP 12

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS

1. IN THE WAKE OF IAN SMITH'S JANUARY 24 STATEMENT, WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN AN URGENT REVIEW OF WHAT WE CAN DO TO SALVAGE THE RHODESIAN NEGOTIATIONS. WE TOLD THE PRESS TODAY THAT DESPITE SMITH'S REJECTION, WE SUPPORT BRITISH PROPOSALS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. AS A RESULT OF OUR ENCOURAGEMENT, THE BRITISH APPEARED IN SOMEWHAT BETTER SPIRITS TODAY, ALTHOUGH OUR EMBASSY IN LONDON REPORTS THEY ARE STILL UNCERTAIN ABOUT WHAT CAN BE DONE. IN PARLIAMENT, SECRETARY OF STATE CROSLAND VOICED DISAPPOINTMENT BUT STATED THAT THE SITUATION IS STILL UNDER REVIEW. HE HAS ALSO INSTRUCTED GENEVA CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN RICHARD TO STAY IN AFRICA IN ORDER TO TALK TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS

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AND THE RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS BEFORE RETURNING TO LONDON THIS WEEKEND.

2. SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR BOTHA HAS CALLED TO SAY SMITH DID NOT CONSULT WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT BEFORE MAKING HIS STATEMENT. BOTHA INDICATED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS WERE CAUGHT SHORT BY SMITH IN VIEW OF THEIR

PREVIOUS ASSURANCES THAT SMITH WOULD NOT REJECT THE BRITISH

PROPOSALS. THE SECRETARY SAW BOTHA THIS EVENING AND
TOLD HIM WE EXPECT SOUTH AFRICA TO USE ITS INFLUENCE IN
BRINGING SMITH TO MODERATE HIS POSITION.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SAYING TO THE BRITISH WE COUNT
ON THEM PUSHING TO KEEP THE DOOR TO NEGOTIATIONS OPEN.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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